

## An Effective Leader

### Prophet Musa was a great leader

He managed to save the people of Israel from Pharoah, faced many challenges with them and because he was the Prophet who Allah spoke to directly, he was named “Kaleemu-Allah”.

Surat Taha tells us a few things about how Prophet Musa (pbuh) was a great leader:

#### 1. Leaders know about their tools and how to use them: resources, talents

*“He replied, ‘It is my staff! I lean on it, and with it I beat down ‘branches’ for my sheep, and have other uses for it.’” (20:18)*

#### 2. They acknowledge their fear and find assurance in Allah

*“Allah said, ‘Take it, and have no fear. We will return it to its former state.’” (20:21)*

Musa’s Dua:

*“Moses prayed, ‘My Lord! Uplift my heart for me, and make my task easy, and remove the impediment from my tongue so people may understand my speech.’” (20: 25-28)*

#### 3. They ask for help and support

*“and grant me a helper from my family, Aaron, my brother. Strengthen me through him, and let him share my task, so that we may glorify You much and remember You much, for truly You have ‘always’ been overseeing us.” (20:26-35)*

But Prophet Musa wasn’t born a prophet. Other people around him had to step up and do their part before the time Prophet Musa was made a prophet.

- a. **His mother:** she didn’t just put him in a basket and leave him. She asked her daughter to follow him and find out where he ended up. She was trusting of Allah and delegated the task of following to someone who

could do it better.

- b. **His sister:** she went to the castle of Pharoah and offered to tell them of someone who can feed baby Musa. She was brave and took initiative.
- c. **Asiya, the wife of Pharoah:** she didn't discriminate against baby Musa and aspired that he'd grow up as their son. She was loving and steadfast.
- d. **Prophet Shuaib,** the father of the two young women at the well: he understood the qualities of a good person and wanted to make Musa part of his family. He was wise and understood people.
- e. **His Brother,** Haroon: he was a prophet too and supported his brother. He was gentle and well-spoken.

These are different people and show how important it is for a leader to recognise that he/she needs their people to make a better life for them and others.

**The hadith of Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) tells us the importance of being an effective leader and an excellent team player in each of our roles.**

Abdullah ibn Umar reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

*“Every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock. The leader of a people is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects.*

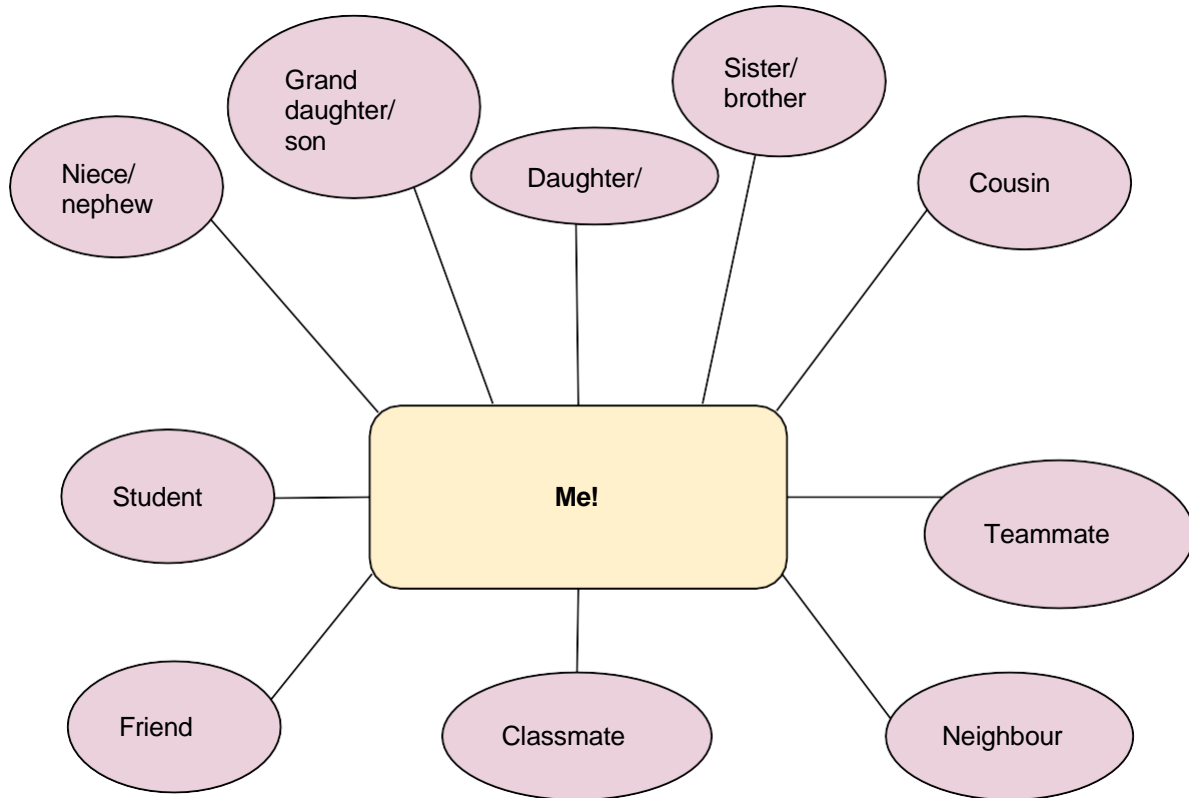
*A man is the guardian of his family and he is responsible for them.*

*A woman is the guardian of her husband's home and his children and she is responsible for them.*

*The servant of a man is a guardian of the property of his master and he is responsible for it. No doubt, every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock.”*

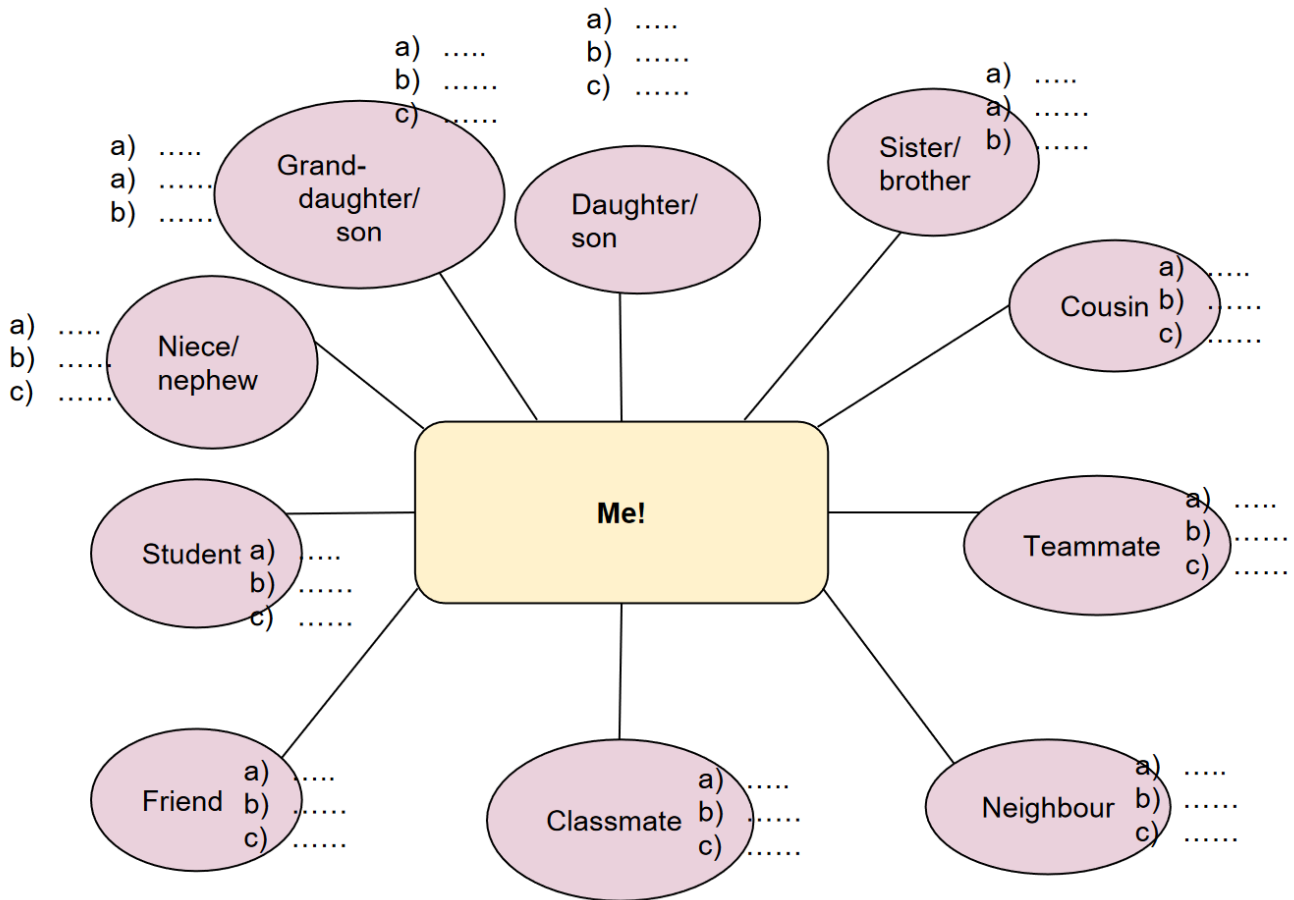
(Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 7138, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1829)

**We all have different roles where we can be excellent and act like leaders:**



There are similar things that I do to be excellent at these things. For example: I remember that Allah hears and sees everything I do, so I remember to be honest, friendly, follow the sunnah, and build good relationships.

**Activity: What do you do to be excellent in your different roles?**



There are a range of different things that I do to be excellent at these things.

For example:

- Using special occasions to connect and to get to know my neighbours
- Being patient with my cousins
- Using my skills when in a team.

We began with the story of Prophet Musa (pbuh) as a great leader and mentioned how he had the support of those around him, and showed personal leadership.

Then we explored the **different** roles that we have and how we can practice personal leadership in **choosing to be excellent in those roles** - to please Allah and be the guardians Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) spoke about in the hadith.

And remember:

*“You don’t need a title to be a leader” (Anonymous)*

**You hold yourself accountable because you know Allah is As-Samee, Al-Baseer (The All-Hearing, All-Seeing)**